(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said vacant posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The post of the Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is lying vacant with effect from 1st January, 2002. The process for selection and appointment to the post of Chairman, AAI was started in time, but has been delayed on account of certain requirements for compliance of orders of Delhi High Court in the Letters Patent Appeal No. 234/2001. It is difficult to estimate the time by which the post would be filled. The post of Member [Operations] is lying vacant from October 2001. A panel of names has been recevied from Public Enterprises Selection Board [PESB]. A reference will be made to the competent authority as soon as the formalities are completed. As regards the posts of Members [Personnel and Administration], Member [Finance] and Member [Planning], extension of tenures of the present incumbents has been considered by this Ministry in consultation with the PESB. The extension of tenure of present incumbent of Member [P&A] has been referred and action is at hand to refer the others, to the competent authority.

Phone numbers at AI office, New York

1358. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for Air India office at New York not having 1–800 phones when all other airlines have the facility of 1–800 numbers; and

(b) whether Government will direct Air India to provide/consider, 1–800 number for improving the services to its customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Air India offices at New York are having the facility of 1–800 phones.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of new aircrafts by Air Sahara

1359. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Air Sahara for purchase of new aircrafts from various sources;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the aircrafts proposed to be acquired are on long-term dry lease or on some other terms and conditions such as purchase from Canada; and

(d) the details of the proposal submitted by Air Sahara in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) : Government has recently permitted M/s. Air Sahara to import eight CRJ-200 (50 seater) and four CRJ-700 (70 seater) aircraft from foreign airlines on dry lease basis.

M/s. Air Sahara has also submitted a proposal for import of two B-737–700 (136 seater) and two B-737–800 (168 seater)aircraft on dry lease basis.

IA's fleet expansion plans

1360. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has objected to the fleet expansion plan of the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and

(c) the response of the Ministry of Civil Aviation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The proposal that has been received from Indian Airlines Ltd. has been circulated to various apprasing agencies like Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment etc. Their comments, when received will be discussed in a pre-PIB (Public Investment Board) meeting.

Security lapse on Delhi-Mumbai flight

1361. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a police Sub-Inspector carrying his